

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
STATE OF MONTANA

BRIAN SCHWEITZER
GOVERNOR



JOHN BOHLINGER
LT. GOVERNOR

October 7, 2008

Dear Educator:

The Office of the Governor and the Montana Board of Crime Control invite you and your students to participate in Montana's Second Annual Do the Write Thing Challenge. This project provides young people a crucial voice to reduce youth violence through writing and literature. The Challenge encourages 7th and 8th grade students to participate in classroom discussions and write about the causes of and solutions to youth violence. In addition, one boy and one girl will be selected to represent Montana at the National Recognition Week in Washington, D.C. in July 2009. Their writings will be published and placed in the Library of Congress.

Teachers are encouraged to incorporate the Challenge into their regular classroom curriculum.

Some ideas for classroom activities include:

- English: May be part of an essay or poetry-writing assignment
- Health: Discuss personal safety and well-being of others
- Civics: Conduct an exercise on personal and civic responsibility
- History: Use a historical perspective to examine youth violence

The deadline for entries is **March 6, 2009**. To participate, students complete a short essay, poem, play or song and submit it, along with a cover sheet, to their teachers **and/or** principals. Each school then forwards all written essays to the Montana Board of Crime Control Juvenile Justice Specialist to be reviewed by a panel of business, community and governmental leaders that oversees and administers the Challenge in Montana.

The top 25 essays from around the state will be forwarded to the Board and 10 essays (5 boys and 5 girls) will be selected from those. These 10 writings will be published and the authors will be honored at a banquet held in Helena, MT in April, 2009. Montana's two national ambassadors will be selected at this banquet. The two ambassadors, their teacher and a parent will go to Washington, D. C. to participate with other ambassadors during the National Recognition Week in July 2009. Travel expenses for all will be paid by the National Campaign to Stop Violence and a grant awarded by the Montana Board of Crime Control's Youth Justice Council.

Cover sheets and additional information may be found at: www.dtwt.org. An informational pamphlet with Montana specific contest information can be found at: <http://mbcc.mt.gov/>. To request a teacher's packet by mail, please contact Sheryl Burright, MBCC Juvenile Justice Specialist, at sburright@mt.gov or call (406) 444-3651.

We encourage your student's participation and look forward to this year's Challenge.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "B. Schweitzer".

BRIAN SCHWEITZER
Governor